

Appl. No.: 10/820,244
Amdt. dated January 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim Listing:

1. (previously presented) A method for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances, in particular capsules, tablets or dragees, comprising leading the units of active substances through a microwave resonator and, determining the mass M from the displacement A of the resonant frequency and the broadening B of the resonance curve, with compensation for the influence of moisture, by means of a mathematical combination of the two measured variables, which comprises a linear expansion of M with respect to A , each of the coefficients representing a linear expansion with respect to F , where $F=B/A$.

2. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mass is determined with the aid of the relationship

$$M = k_1 \cdot (1 + k_2 \cdot F) \cdot A$$

where k_1 and k_2 are constants, of which k_2 depends on the unit of active substances examined and $F=B/A$.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the moisture is additionally determined.

4. (previously presented) The method for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances which comprise a casing and the active substance contained therein, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mass of the casing without active substance and then the total mass of the unit of active substances following filling with the active substance are determined.

Appl. No.: 10/820,244

Amdt. dated January 18, 2006

Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2005

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the empty casings are sorted by mass and are then filled batchwise and the total mass is determined.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the mass of the casing is determined immediately before filling.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed claim 1, wherein microwaves with frequencies from 1 to 60 GHz, in particular 2 to 30 GHz, are used.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances, in particular capsules, tablets or dragees, which comprises a microwave generator, a microwave resonator, a device for guiding the units of active substances through the microwave resonator, measuring and evaluation electronics for determining the mass from the displacement A of the resonant frequency and the broadening B of the resonance curve, and a device for removing individual units of active substances, and a second microwave resonator with measuring and evaluation electronics for determining the mass of the units of active substances before filling.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the devices for guiding the units of active substances have a tube, through which the units of active substances are conveyed by an air stream.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the devices for guiding the units of active substances have an endless belt with depressions, into which the units of active substances are inserted.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the devices for guiding the units of active substances have a circular disk, on the circumference of which the units of active substances are held firmly with the aid of vacuum.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein devices are provided for determining a mass value of the carrying device for the units of active substances.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the moisture is additionally determined.

15. (previously presented) The method for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances which comprise a casing and the active substance contained therein, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mass of the casing without active substance and then the total mass of the unit of active substances following filling with the active substance are determined.

16. (previously presented) The method for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances which comprise a casing and the active substance contained therein, as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mass of the casing without active substance and then the total mass of the unit of active substances following filling with the active substance are determined.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the devices for guiding the units of active substances have a tube, through which the units of active substances are conveyed by an air stream.

18. (currently amended) An apparatus for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances, in particular capsules, tablets or dragees, which comprises a microwave generator, a microwave resonator, a device for guiding the units of active

substances through the microwave resonator, measuring and evaluation electronics for determining the mass from the displacement A of the resonant frequency and the broadening B of the resonance curve, and a device for removing individual units of active substances ~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 8~~, wherein the devices for guiding the units of active substances have an endless belt with depressions, into which the units of active substances are inserted.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for determining the mass of portioned units of active substances, in particular capsules, tablets or dragees, which comprises a microwave generator, a microwave resonator, a device for guiding the units of active substances through the microwave resonator, measuring and evaluation electronics for determining the mass from the displacement A of the resonant frequency and the broadening B of the resonance curve, and a device for removing individual units of active substances ~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 8~~, wherein the devices for guiding the units of active substances have a circular disk, on the circumference of which the units of active substances are held firmly with the aid of vacuum.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein devices are provided for determining a mass value of the carrying device for the units of active substances.